

Life in the Early Holocene

BIO-302: Tuesday 5:35-8:35 PM

Instructor:

Hylke de Jong

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-2 PM or by appointment: BIO 204b

Email: hylke.de.jong@rutgers.edu

PRE-REQUISITE: 070:105 Introduction to Archaeology, 070:102 Introduction to Human Evolution

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

- **Hunter-Gatherer lives**
- **Archaeology**
- **Onset to Domestication**
- **Early Holocene**
- **Climate**
- **Technology**
- **Subsistence**

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The course offer, through various reading materials and lectures, the student a perspective on the period of human history bridging the last Ice Age—the Pleistocene—and the onset of domestication. The Early Holocene being a period of relatively abrupt climatic changes, can be viewed as the last period in history when all of humankind enjoyed a similar mode of subsistence, viz. that of hunting and foraging.

By the end of the course the student will understand the particular conditions that preceded domestication and the differentiation of subsistence modes. But also will know the Early Holocene as a period in its own right, and not as one defined by what it is not: Upper Palaeolithic or Neolithic.

MATERIALS

The required reading for the course will be made up of book chapters from the following two book:

Panther-Brick, C.; Layton, R.H.; and Rowley-Conwy, P. 2001 *Hunter-Gatherers: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, CUP Cambridge etc.

Cummings, V.; Jordan, P.; Zvelebil, M. 2014 *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers*, OUP Oxford etc.

Recommended

Mithen, S. 2004 *After the Ice: A Global Human History, 20,000-5000 BC*, Harvard University Press Cambridge Massachusetts.

EXAMS

Midterm 13 October

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Grading will be based on a term paper due by the end of the semester (35%), a mid-term exam held after week 6 (20%), a fifteen minute presentation on an individually researched topic given during the last two classes of term (35%), and class participation (10%).

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one's own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.

Student Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Abbreviations

PBLRC – Hunter-Gatherers: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

OX – The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers

SCHEDULE & TOPIC LIST

Week One (1 Sep)

Introduction

Week Two (15 Sep)

The archaeology of Hunter-Gatherers

Read PBLRC Chs 1, 3, & 5; OX Cummings

Week Three (22 Sep)

Nutritional and Behavioural Ecology of H-G

Read PBLRC Chs 2, 8, & 9; OX Chs 31, 33, & 34

Week Four (29 Sep)

H-G Art, Tools, and H-G persistence after the introduction of domestication

Read PBLRC Ch 10, 11; OX 26-28, 30

Week Five (6 Oct)

Review

Week Six (13 Oct)

Midterm Exam

Week Seven (20 Oct)

Early Holocene (EH) Africa

Week Eight (27 Oct)

EH Europe

Week Nine (3 Nov)

EH Asia

Week Ten (10 Nov)
EH Australia and America

Week Eleven (17 Nov)
Presentations

Week Twelve (24 Nov)
Presentations

Week Thirteen (1 Dec)
Review

Week Fourteen (8 Dec)
Writing class, trouble shooting papers

Final exam Dec 16, 2015: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM